



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

January 14, 2014 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Main Room of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, January 14, 2013.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, Jim Robillard, Jen Robillard, Elena Bartholomew and Peter Hedlund.

Members from the public: Linda Byrne and Rosemarie Carvello

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the minutes of December 10, 2013, Ms. Rothenberg seconded and approved 5-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

No public comments.

Magnolia Playground Discussion

Mr. Connelly has received various input from park users and abutters regarding Magnolia Playground. Toys are being left on the playground. There is not enough equipment for younger children. A request was made to remove the sand and put down alternative safety surfacing. The basketball court needs to be redone and is not being used because toys are being left on the court. The park is run down and the sand is dirty. When it rains, the area by the basketball court floods causing safety concerns.

Currently, funding for the basketball court is in the requests for the upcoming fiscal year, and Magnolia Field/Playground is on the Capital Plan in Fiscal Year 2023. The Commission agreed that a shorter-term fix is needed. The Commission discussed reassessing the Capital Plan to shift priorities. In the interim, Mr. Connelly will talk to the DPW about pumps and the flooding issue to determine if any Town officials or committees are working on solutions for the flooding. The Commission will discuss reprioritizing the project in October and possibly moving it in.

Policy Handbook – Review Banner Policy Draft

The Commission reviewed the revised Banner Policy Draft, which included Ms. Rothenberg's input and comments. Mr. Connelly will make some minor rearranging of paragraphs and will then send it to the Zoning Board of Appeals to get their feedback.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to vote to move forward as amended, seconded by Ms. Caniff and approved 5-0.

Route 2 Improvements and Thorndike Tree Planting

Ms. Mayer received correspondence from Cori Beckwith of the Conservation Commission, which included a link to a copy of the original filing for the Route 2 Improvements and Thorndike tree planting. The Conservation Commission is looking for input from the Park and Recreation Commission. The Park and Recreation Commission would like more information and asked that a representative from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) attend the next Commission meeting to discuss the proposed location of the trees. The Commission will then talk with Mike Rademacher.

Thorndike OLRA Signs for Children Draft

The Commission reviewed the off-leash area signs for children's behavior that were drafted by Sarah Trainor. One sign will be placed at each entrance. Ms. Caniff motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

Capital Improvement Project Update

Florence Avenue Playground – Mr. Connelly received a quote from M.E. O'Brien for \$6,711 for a new swing set and an installation quote from JNJ Saccia of \$11,800. One possibility would be to move the swing set to the Hibbert project, where the

swings wouldn't get the same intensive use that it does at Dallin. After using the monies leftover from the park sign prototype design budget, there would still be at least \$6,000 needed to install the new swings at Florence. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to find out if/where this same configuration of swings is being used. Since the professionals involved in the project agree that the swings are safe but they could wear more quickly, the possibility of extending the warranty was also discussed. Mr. Connelly will speak again with JNJ Sacca, M.E. O'Brien and Clara Batchelder to come up with a solution.

ADA Study – The first public ADA training meeting will be on Thursday, January 16, 2014. The Recreation Staff and the Commission are asked to attend. Notices have gone out inviting the public too.

Hibbert and North Union – The project schedule for Hibbert and North Union is moving forward. The latest budget summaries for both parks were discussed. Mr. Connelly stressed his concern with the North Union Spray Park budget. The colored concrete splash pad line item is high. Mr. Connelly suggested getting an add alternate for painted asphalt to bring the project under budget. Another area to save costs would be to have the DPW do the demolition. Mr. Connelly will talk to the DPW. If the DPW agrees, the demolition can be listed as a deduct alternate. Mr. Robillard will investigate the possibility of a donation toward the project from NStar.

Special Requests

No special requests.

Off -Leash Dog Review

Mr. Connelly received two complaints.

First complaint was about an owner and a dog named Chloe at Thorndike OLRA. It was reported that the dog, Chloe, was very aggressive around balls and the owner was extremely rude. This complaint was reported to the Animal Control Officer.

Second complaint was at Menotomy Rocks Park about the off-leash signage not being read or obeyed. Mr. Connelly sent this complaint to the Animal Control Officer also. At this time, the new ACO has not observed any behavior to issue any tickets at Menotomy Rocks Park.

Rink and Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly stated that he is interviewing for tennis programs. He interviewed Winchester Lawn and Tennis and was very encouraged.

Commission Liaison Reports

The Friends of Parks Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2014.

Ms. Mayer stated that the Redevelopment Board is enthusiastic about the Millbrook Linear Park project and held a joint meeting with the Master Planning Group to make them aware of the opportunities.

Other

The Park and Recreation Commission Retreat will take place Saturday, February 1, 2014 (9am-noon) at the Whittemore Robbins House.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation